

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 remain pending in this application. Applicant is appreciative of the Examiner's well-reasoned and thorough analysis performed in the subject Office Action dated November 30, 2004. In view of the suggested revisions to the specification and responsive remarks presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the Examiner's objections have been alleviated, and respectfully requests immediate notice of allowance.

The Examiner's indication that Claims 9-17 have been deemed allowable is gratefully acknowledged.

The Examiner's indication that Claims 1-8 and 18-19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome objections as to their form is also gratefully acknowledged. Specifically, the Examiner has entered minor objections to certain limitations of Claims 1, 2, 3, 18, 19. Applicant has amended these claims in accordance with the courteous suggestions of the Examiner, and respectfully submits that any basis for objection has been alleviated. The revisions to the claims do not affect their scope or patentability, but rather, merely set forth explicitly what would have been implicitly known to those skilled in the art from the original claims. For example, Applicant's use of the word "them" refers to the teeth, as would be readily understood by one of skill in the art, and in no way narrows or adds to the patentability of the claims. Similarly, the flexible legs would have been implicitly understood by skilled artisans as extending inwardly from the vertical walls, and the typographical error regarding the surfaces would have also been clear to these skilled artisans. Thus, none of the present claim revisions were required for any purpose relating to patentability.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 3, 18 and 19 are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner has also objected to Claims 4-8, which depend from and further restrict Claim 1. Because Claim 1 is in condition for immediate allowance, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 4-8 are similarly allowable.

In the subject Office Action, the Examiner has also objected to the drawings. Specifically, the Examiner's detailed review of Applicant's drawings revealed that they failed to include reference element number 47, as referred to in the written description, and also failed to show a reference element number for certain features recited in the claims.

In the formal drawings which Applicant has filed concurrently herewith, and in the Replacement Sheet and Annotated Sheet Showing Changes included as an exhibit to this document, Applicant has correctly depicted reference element number 47 in Figure 12 of Sheet 4 of 4. Also, reference element number 62 has been redrawn. Consideration of these revisions should remove this objection.

Also, Applicant submits that the Examiner's objections to the drawings for the inadvertent omission of certain features called for in the claims can be allayed by reference to both the original specification and the above described amendments to the claims and specification. First, the Examiner has pointed to Claim 3, which as originally filed included reference to "cam surfaces configured for engagement of corresponding portions of the teeth" The original drawings included no reference element number corresponding to such a "cam surface." As the Examiner will note, in amended Claim 3 above, the objected to language has been cancelled and amended to refer to the marginal edges of the panel (which is shown at element number 50). Applicant believes that this revision should remove the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner also has observed that there is no reference element number to correspond to the recited feature in claim 19 of "lightening holes" laterally spaced apart along the vertical wall of the frame segments. As set forth above, Applicant has amended the specification to disclose that which was inherent and intended in the original specification—namely that the "lightening holes" recited in Claim 19 are considered to be the equivalent of the wall openings shown and referred to as element numbers 24 and 24' in the original drawings and specification. For example, element numbers 24 and 24' are

shown in Fig. 12, and are referred to in the original specification in the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 16:

"To lend resiliency to the legs 25, as shown in the preferred embodiment of Figs. 6 and 12, the interior wall 16 may be formed adjacent to the lateral edges of the respective legs 25 with respective wall openings 24 and 24' that extend from the upper edge 18 of the frame 13 to respective points located slightly above the lower edge 19." (emphasis added)

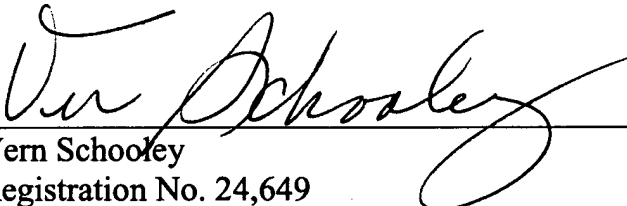
Applicant submits that the foregoing information resolves the Examiner's objection.

Applicant has also amended the specification to resolve the objected to informalities listed at page 3 of the subject Office Action. Finally, in response to the Examiner's objection for failure to provide proper antecedent basis for the "lightening holes," Applicant respectfully offers that the above described clarification equating these to the "wall openings," shown at element numbers 24 and 24' and addressed in the written description, provides the necessary antecedent basis for the objected to disclosure.

The Examiner has acknowledged that the present "application is in condition for allowance except for the above formal matters." In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that these formal matters have been resolved, thus removing any basis for objection. Therefore, Applicant solicits immediate allowance of Claims 1-19.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
Vern Schooley
Registration No. 24,649

200 Oceangate, Suite 1550
Long Beach, CA 90802
Telephone: (562) 432-0453
Facsimile: (562) 435-6014
Customer No. 27629
VS/ABL:rmk/mjm



FIG. 10

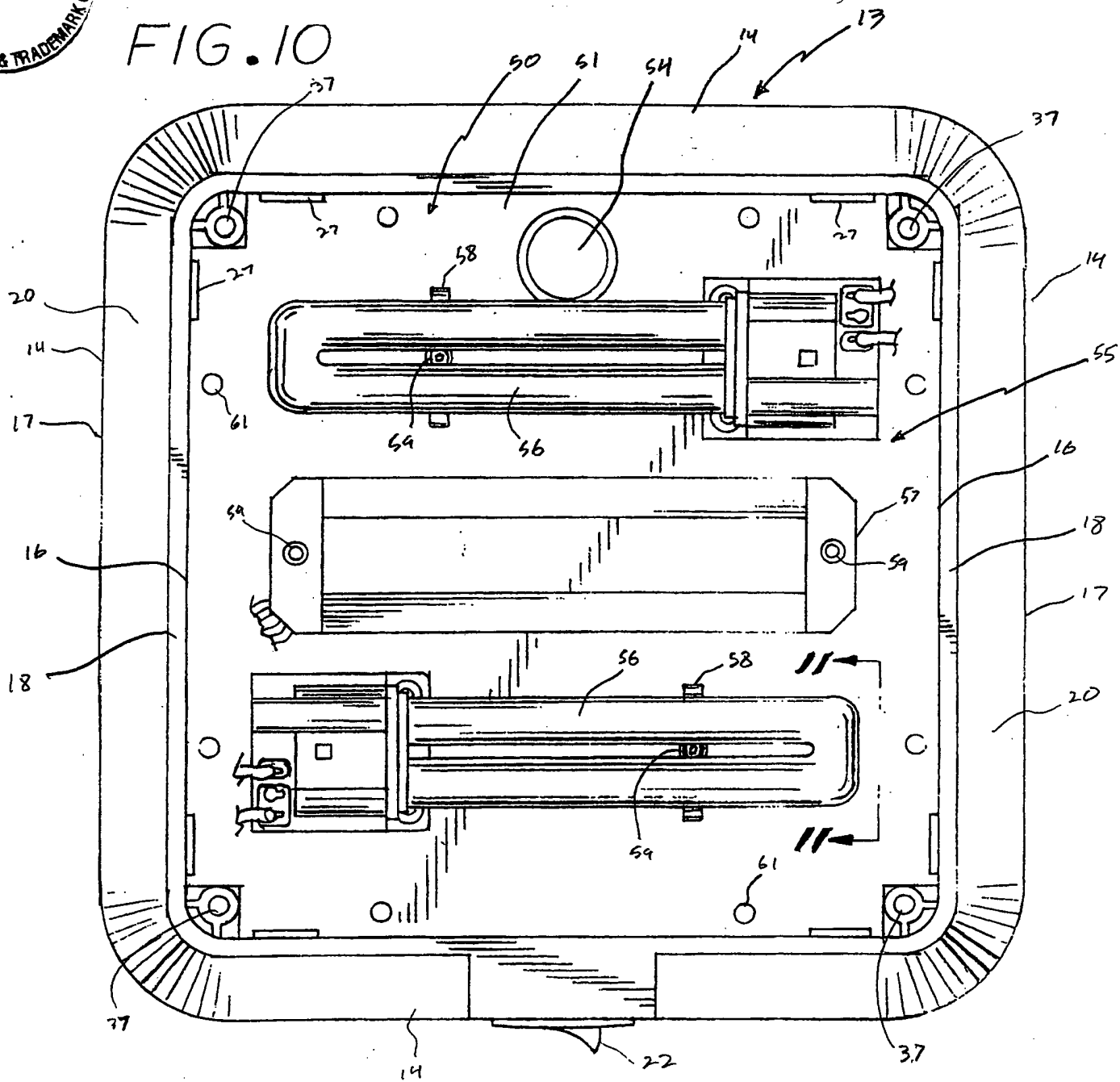
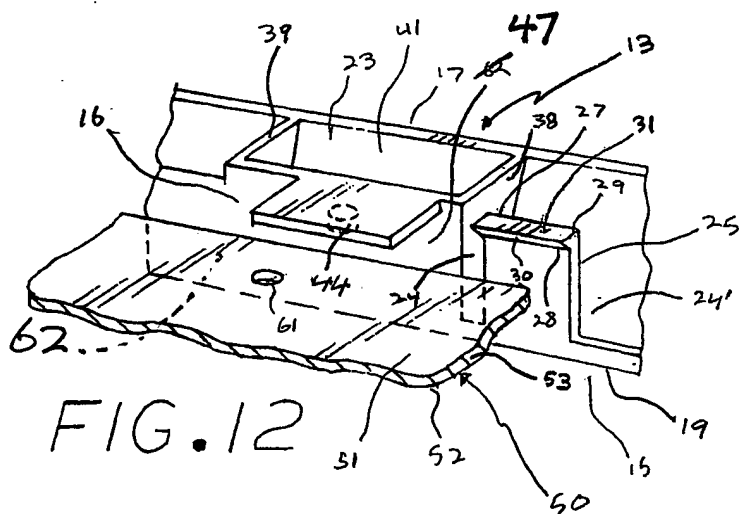
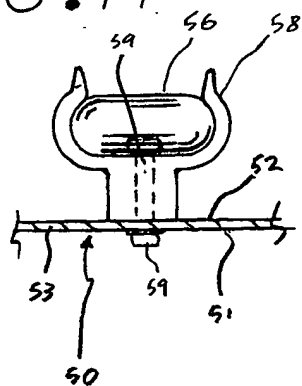


FIG. 11



AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings (sheet 4 of 4 as originally filed) includes changes to Fig. 12. This sheet, which includes Figs. 10-12, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 10-12. In Fig. 12, previously mislabeled element 62 has been changed to element number 47, and a new depiction of element number 62 has been added.

For the Examiner's benefit, and to prepare the application for formal allowance, Applicant has made these revisions in a new set of formal drawings, which are being filed concurrently herewith. In the present Amendment, therefore, Applicant's included replacement sheet is taken from these formal drawings. Also, the Examiner will find that the annotated sheet showing these changes is taken from the original informal drawings, and reflects the changes that have been made in the formal drawings based on the Examiner's courteous recommendations.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes